

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-21 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 9, 15, and 21 being the independent claims. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute similar or broader claims, with respect to the amended claims, in the future. New claim 21 is sought to be added. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rescinder of All Disclaimers of Claim Scope

It is noted that this application is related to a number of other patent(s) and/or application(s). The claims presented in this application should be interpreted solely based on the file history of this application, not the file history of any related patent(s) or application(s).

With respect to this Application, Applicant(s) hereby rescind any disclaimer of claim scope made in the parent application or any predecessor or related application. The Examiner is advised that any previous disclaimer of claim scope, if any, and the references that it was made to allegedly avoid, may need to be revisited.

Further, although the present communication may include alterations to the application or, characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, reviewers of this or any parent, child, or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that Applicant(s) has made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application. Nor should any previous disclaimer of claim scope, if any, in this Application be read back into any predecessor or related application.

Statement of Substance of Interviews

The SPE is thanked for the courtesies extended during a telephone interview of March 2, 2010. During that interview, the SPE suggested several clarifications to the claims in view of possible 35 U.S.C. §101 issues. Agreement was reached for these

clarifications to move the claims into condition for allowance in view of possible 35 U.S.C. §101 issues.

The Examiner is thanked for the courtesies extended during telephone interviews of December 11 and 17, 2009 and March 9 and 17, 2010. During each of the interviews, the alleged formal issues with the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112 were discussed, and suggested clarifications to the claims were agreed upon to overcome the alleged formal issues and move the claims into condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1, 9 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being incomplete for allegedly omitting essential elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the elements. Without acquiescing to the propriety of the rejection, the Examiner agreed during the above-mentioned interviews that, based on the amendments above, the rejection would be overcome. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12, 15, 16, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Without acquiescing to the propriety of the rejections, the Examiner agreed during the above-mentioned interviews that, based on the amendments above, the rejections would be overcome. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2009

WILLEN *et al.*
Appl. No. 10/705,758

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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